

Appl. No. 10/687,017
Response dated August 29, 2005
Reply to office action of August 1, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants acknowledge receipt of the Office Action dated August 1, 2005, in which a Restriction Requirement divided original Claims 1-48 into three Groups set out as follows:

Group I. 1-14 & 20-43 drawn to a catalyst support;

Group II. 15-16 & 44-48 drawn to a catalyst using a catalyst support;

Group III. 17-19 drawn to a hydrothermal reaction process for converting synthesis gas to hydrocarbons.

Election with Traverse

With this Response, Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement for the claim Groups I-III. Applicants would like to point out that Group I is drawn to a *method for making a catalyst support* (not a catalyst support), and that Claim 15 of Group II, as originally worded, is drawn to a catalyst comprising a catalytic metal dispersed on a catalyst support prepared by the method of claim 1 (Group I). Thus, Applicants believe that Claim 15 links Groups I and II. Similarly, Claim 17 of Group III, as originally worded, is drawn to a hydrothermal reaction process comprising contacting a feed stream with the catalyst of claim 16 (Group II), and Applicants believe that Claim 17 links Group II and Group III. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement, so that each of the linking claims could be examined concurrently with the claim group to which it is linked.

As required by MPEP 809.02(a), Applicants elect Group II with traverse. Since Claim 15 (Group II) was divided as a *distinct* invention from Group I but yet was linked to Claim 1 of Group I, Applicants decided to make the interrelationship of the claims of Groups I and II clearer by adding the method steps which were originally presented in Claim 1 (Group I) into Claim 15 (Group II) by way of amendment, so that Claim 15 could be examined on its merits, and furthermore by adding the method steps which were originally presented in Claim 20 (Group I) into Claim 44 (Group II) by way of amendment.

With the amendments of elected independent claims 15 and 44 which add respectively the method steps of non-elected claims 1 and 20, Claims 2-14 and 21-43 were redirected to Group II.

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Claims 2-14 have been amended to now depend from elected now-amended Claim 15, i.e., by changing their preamble. Similarly, Claims 21-43 have been amended to now depend from elected now-amended Claim 44, i.e., by changing their preamble. Applicants respectfully request that claims 2-14 and 21-43, as currently amended and now being dependent from elected independent claims of Group II, be examined with those of the instant elected Group II.

Claim 45 of Group II which depends from elected Claim 44 was amended to cover an embodiment to which Applicants are entitled and which is supported by at least paragraph [0042] of the originally filed specification.

Claims 1 and 20 of non-elected Group I are now cancelled.

By Applicants' election of Group II, claims 17-19 of Group III are withdrawn from consideration. However, upon allowance of catalyst Claim 16, Applicants respectfully request these claims to be rejoined (see MPEP § 821.04).

No new matter was added by way of amendments of original claims or addition of new claims.

New claims:

New claims 49 and 50 depend from elected independent claim 15 and were added to cover additional embodiments of the invention. New claims 49 and 50 are supported by at least in part paragraphs [0040] and [0042] of the original the specification.

Status of the Claims

Claims 2-15 and 21-45 have been amended.

Claims 1 and 20 are now cancelled.

Claims 17-19 are now withdrawn.

Claims 49 and 50 are new.

Claims 2-19 and 21-50 are currently pending.

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Amendments to the Specification

Paragraphs [0059] and [0060] have been amended to correct typographical errors, i.e., correcting "5.5 bar" to "5.5. bars" and correcting "was measure" to "was measured", respectively.

Paragraph [0061] has been amended to include serial numbers of patent applications that were not available at the time the application was filed.

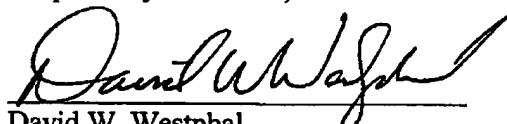
No new matter was added by way of amendment to the Paragraphs [0059] to [0061] of the originally filed specification.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that they have fully responded to the Office Action and that the pending claims are allowable. If any issues pertaining to restriction groups and election remain, and such the resolution of such issues may be facilitated by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (580) 767-4958 regarding such issues.

Should any fees have been inadvertently omitted, or if any additional fees are required or have been overpaid, please appropriately charge or credit those fees to Deposit Account Number 16-1575 of ConocoPhillips Company., Houston, Texas, and consider this a petition for any necessary extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,



David W. Westphal
Reg. No. 32,673
ConocoPhillips Company
1000 S. Pine Street
Ponca City, Oklahoma 74602-1267
(580) 767-4958
Attorney for Applicant